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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT WIPO

15 OCT 2004

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(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)					
2000.086	International filing date (day/mon						
International application No.		25 September 2002 (25.09.2002)					
PCT/US03/20625 International Patent Classification (IPC)	30 June 2003 (30.06.2003)	23 September 2002 (2002)					
		·					
IPC(7): B01D 53/22 and US Cl.: 95/51;	96/4,10	·					
Applicant	·						
EXXONMOBIL UPSTREAM RESEAR	CH COMPANY						
Examining Authority and	is transmitted to the applicant a	en prepared by this International Preliminary according to Article 36.					
2. This REPORT consists of	2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.						
This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).							
These annexes consist of	a total of Z sheets.						
3. This report contains indic	cations relating to the following	items:					
I Basis of the re	port						
II Priority							
III Non-establish	ment of report with regard to no	ovelty, inventive step and industrial applicability					
IV Lack of unity	of invention						
V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement							
VI Certain docur	VI Certain documents cited						
VII Certain defec	ts in the international applicatio	n					
VIII Certain obser	vations on the international app	lication					
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Date of submission of the demand	Da	te of completion of this report					
30 March 2004 (30.03.2004)	29	September 2004 (29.09.2004)					
Name and mailing address of the IPE	A/US Au	nthorized officer					
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents	R	obert H. Spitzer // // // -					
P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-14	50   Te	elephone No. (571) 272-0987					
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230 Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet)(Jul	ly 1998)	obert H. Spitzer Juny Wall Spitzer Juny Wallephone No. (571) 272-0987					

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

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International app	n No.	
PCT/US03/20625		
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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been consequently beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**		the claims, Nos. NONE			
beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**  beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**					
1 to a subject to the formished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14		This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**			
this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amenaments (Rules 70.10)  ** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.	1	placement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to the			



International appl 1 No. PCT/US03/20625

v.	. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement				
1.	STATEMENT				
	Novelty (N)	Claims	1-9	YES	
	novely (1)	Claims	NONE	NO	
	Inventive Step (IS)	Claims	1-9	YES	
		Claims	NONE	NO	
	Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims	1-9	YES	
	industrial 12pp in the control of th	Claims	NONE	NO	
2.	CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS	\			

Claims 1-9 meet industrial applicability as defined by PCT Article 33(4). The subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

Claims 1-9 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a flow conduit

Claims 1-9 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a flow conduit having a semi-permeable section to permeate the component to be separated, with the use of a sweep gas obtained at a first velocity, which first velocity is accelerated so that the velocity of the sweep gas along at least a portion of the permeate side of the semi-permeable section of the flow conduit is greater than such first velocity, and the gas mixture is then decelerated by a defuser, thereby recovering as pressure a portion of the energy of the gas mixture.

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (Box V) (July 1998)